



# Rocky Mountain High School

## Concert Band Syllabus 2011-12

Instructor: Mr. DeWitt

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Class Website: [www.RockyBands.net](http://www.RockyBands.net)

### REQUIRED SUPPLIES

- Instrument
- Foundations for Superior Performance  
(for your instrument)
- 3-ring binder
- Pencils – *work done in ink pen will not be accepted*

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class broadens the student's technical and musical skills as instrumentalists. Focusing on concert literature of moderate difficulty, students not only perform concerts throughout the year but also develop their abilities to join the advanced high school band classes. Participation in all band concerts, festivals and events is required.

### FEES

1. **\$75 Activity Program Fee:** This fee goes directly to the School District to support stipends associated with activities held outside of the regular school day.
2. **\$40/year Instrument Rental:** This fee is assessed and is used to defray the cost of annual maintenance on the instrument. Any damage to the instrument beyond regular maintenance is the student's responsibility.
3. **Solo/Ensemble Festival:** Ensemble registration fees are paid for by RMHS Band. Students performing solos are responsible for the fee themselves as well as purchasing their music.

### CONCERT ATTIRE

Members of Concert Band will need to wear the following:

**Ladies** are to wear all black dresses with conservative neckline and hems that are below the knee, or white blouses with black skirts with the same fit. Black hosiery and black dress shoes (preferably flats or low heels) are needed as well.

**Gentlemen** are to wear white long-sleeved button-down shirts, black slacks (not jeans), black socks, and black shoes.



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### ASSESSMENT

**35 % Performances:** Performances happen outside of the regular school day schedule and students are required to participate in all performances. Current performance information can be found on our website, [www.RockyBands.net](http://www.RockyBands.net). If a student is not able to participate in a performance due to ineligibility, excused absence, or medical/family emergency they will receive a “0” for that performance. They will be expected to make up that performance by completing the Concert Make-up Assignment available from Mr. DeWitt. The grade the student earns on the assignment will be entered for their performance grade.

**30% Daily Rehearsal Preparation:** DRP is a dynamic measure of a student’s preparedness for each class meeting. It includes bringing all of the proper supplies, taking notes in rehearsal about particular assigned passages in need of work, and demonstrating that progress was made on those passages in the next rehearsal. This adds focus and efficiency to a student’s practice sessions and ultimately expedites their progress as a musician. *Included in this grade is attendance and participation in a weekly required sectional.* Grading is as follows:

- 10 points per rehearsal or sectional
- -5 points for no instrument/sticks per day (unless the instrument is at the shop)
- -5 points for no music or book
- Students excessively talking out of turn or distracting others will lose all points for the day. Excessive is being reminded more than once by the director.

**10% Playing Tests:** Material for playing tests can come from three areas: selections from current concert music, technical studies, and sight-reading. The grading scale will be adjusted to reflect the difficulty of the material included in the test. The emphasis is on providing detailed individual feedback for maximum personal improvement.

**15% Written Work & Presentations:** This can include music theory, music history, musical analysis, and reflective writing related to the concert pieces being studied in class. This will also include student presentations on the background and history of our concert literature.

**10% Final Exam:** The final exam will be a cumulative exam covering terms and concepts experienced and studied throughout the semester. Students will also be asked to play all twelve major scale patterns from their Fussel packet.

### ELIGIBILITY:

**Grades:** Students must maintain passing grades (60% or higher) to participate in band activities.

**Attendance:** Students must be in attendance the entire day of a performance to be able to participate.

**Financial:** Students must be in good financial standing to participate in band activities. Students who do not meet these eligibility requirements will not be able to participate and will need to complete a “Concert Make-Up Assignment” to receive credit for the activity.



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### EXPECTATIONS:

Participating in a performance ensemble is a privilege that carries certain responsibilities and expectations for everyone involved. Each member must do their part and take ownership of the artistic product we each hope to create as a group. The bands at Rocky Mountain High School will endeavor to perform to their highest ability through effective rehearsals with members that take responsibility for all aspects of their craft. Members will help create that environment by:

- 1. Be on time** – Rehearsal time is limited and it is essential that any time available for rehearsal is used with absolute efficiency. To this end, all members must get themselves, their sheet music and their instruments ready to play as quickly as possible at the start of the rehearsal. Even one individual not ready to start with the rest of the group wastes valuable rehearsal time.
- 2. Be prepared** – All members of the ensemble must take the responsibility to practice outside of rehearsals so that they are able to participate at the highest level when playing with the group. This also allows the individual to identify areas of difficulty and seek help – whether in rehearsal or outside of rehearsal time. Preparation includes having all your materials with you at every rehearsal including: *instrument, sheet music, pencil*, and anything else needed to be successful.
- 3. Be Respectful** – Efficient and effective rehearsals rely on members who are respectful of each other and the goals of the ensemble. This is demonstrated by *not talking* during rehearsals unless you are specifically involved in the task at hand. This can also be demonstrated by listening and considering ideas from other members in the pursuit of artistic excellence.
- 4. The Space** – The manner in which a rehearsal space is taken care of says everything about the care and respect the people who use it have for their craft. The band room is to be kept clean at all times. Chairs and music stands will be stacked and put away at the end of every rehearsal. Instruments and music will be neatly stowed in lockers. Lockers will be kept clean and organized – free of non-ensemble related materials. Members should take the initiative to pick up trash after rehearsal. This expectation follows for all related facilities that the ensemble may use.
- 5. The Equipment** – The care and respect a musical instrument receives is the first step anyone can make to become a truly artistic musician. Master craftsmen first learn how to care for their tools before they learn the skills to forge masterworks. All equipment must be cared for in an appropriate manner and stowed properly at the end of every rehearsal or performance. It is your responsibility to ask for direction on this if you are not sure.
- 6. Performances** – All of the expectations for performances are the same as those for rehearsals.
- 7. Success** – When each and every ensemble member follows these expectations, they (and our ensembles) will be empowered to find their highest level of artistic success.



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### **Percussion Supplies**

The quality of a percussionist's performance relies in large part on the quality and condition of their instruments and the implements used to play them. A significant portion of a percussionist's training is learning how to properly choose and care for not only the instruments, but also the implements needed to play those instruments. Student percussionists will be required to purchase the following implements and supplies in pursuit of this goal.

<b>REQUIRED PERCUSSION IMPLEMENTS AND SUPPLIES</b>	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Example</i>
Concert Snare Drum Stick	Vic Firth SD1
Timpani Mallet: General	Vic Firth T1
Xylophone/Bell Mallet: General	1 pair Vic Firth M133 or Mike Balter 91R
Marimba/Vibe/Suspended Cymbal Mallets: Medium	1 pair Vic Firth M228 or Mike Balter 53R
Metronome	Any model will suffice
Neoprene Practice Pad	12" Real Feel or equivalent
Stick Bag	Any bag capable of holding all implements with room for future expansion

Once a basic set of implements is purchased, additional choices that will benefit the percussionist's pursuit of expanded musicality and expression can include the following:

<b>OPTIONAL PERCUSSION IMPLEMENTS AND SUPPLIES</b>	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Example</i>
Drum set sticks	7A or equivalent
Drum set brushes	Regal Tip 583R "Classic Telescoping Wire" or Regal Tip 595N "Whiskers"
Marching Snare Drum Sticks	Vic Firth Ralph Hardimon
Bell Mallets: Aluminum	1 pair Vic Firth M146 Aluminum Bell Mallet or Mike Balter 9AR
Marimba/Vibe/Suspended Cymbal Mallets: Medium	2nd pair of Vic Firth M228 or Mike Balter 53R to make a full set of 4 mallets.
Timpani Mallet: Staccato	Vic Firth T3
Timpani Mallet: Cartwheel	Vic Firth T2
Timpani Mallet: Ultra Staccato	Vic Firth T4
Timpani Mallet: Wood	Vic Firth T5
Tuning fork (A = 440) or Pitch Pipe	Any

**Students will need to have the above listed "*Required Implements*" no later than February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**



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## Statement of Understanding and Rigor

We have read the above policies and understand them.

We also understand that participation in the Concert Band at Rocky Mountain High School carries with it expectations of participation in required co-curricular activities, many of which occur outside the regular school day.

Finally, we understand that participation in the Concert Band at Rocky Mountain High School carries a financial expectation that we agree to handle in a timely manner.

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Student Name (*print*): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (*print*): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone (*best number*): (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email (*best email*): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete this form and return (*last page only*)  
by January 25<sup>th</sup>.**